..Smuggling for foreign cigarattes

774. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling of foreign cigarettes into the country has been on the increase much to the dis-advantage of the domestic industry;

(b) if so, to what extent in Government's view the duty structure, on indigenously produced cigarettes is responsible for the increase in smuggling of foreign cigarettes into the country; and

(c) whether Government propose to rationalise the excise duty on Indian cigarettes to minimise the smuggling; if so, what steps are contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Reports received by the Government and seizures made do not indicate smuggling of foreign cigarettes nto the country on any significant scale.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

775. [*Transferred to the* 17 *November.* 1986.]

Stagnation in the cotton textile industry

776. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of virtual stagnation in the cotton textile industry, the domestic demand for cotton is not likely to rise during 1986-87 and that with the higher cotton yield anticipated in 1986-87 season, cotton glut in the country is feared;

(b) if so, what is the anticipated domestic demand for cotton during 1986-87 as compared to the year 1985-86 and to what extent the cotton stock with the Cotton Corporation of India is likely to rise due to the sluggish domestic demand; and

(c) whether Government propose to evolve a long-term export policy, for the export of cotton to meet the situation; if so, what steps have been taken by government in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The domestic consumption of cotton is evpected to increase by 2.4 lakh bales over the last year's consumption, while the production during 1986-87 is expected to be 102 lakh bales as against last year's production of 107 lakh bales. The Cotton Corporation of India purchases Kapas at minimum support prices. Whenever the prices tend to fall belof the support prices. It is therefore, not possible toa nticipate the extent of rise in the stocke of cotton with the Cotton Corporation of India.

(c) Government announced its cotton export policy on a long term basis on 24th October, 1986. According to the policy, export of following quantities of cotton would be permitted per year for a period of three years beginning with the current cotton season 1986-87:

Long and extra long staple cotton—	5 lakh bales
Digvijay variety of cotton—	50,000 bales
Bengal Deshi—50,000 bales	50,000 bales
	50,000 bales